

Import, Export of Solid Waste

IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The movement of solid waste between states is a common practice and a controversial issue. As a result, there have been numerous court cases dealing with this subject. Several rulings limit states from restricting the interstate movement of solid waste.

In FY 2008, the vast majority of out-of-state waste was disposed of in two privately owned municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills – Lee County and Palmetto (Spartanburg County). (See Table A.)

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This fact sheet provides a brief overview of the import and export of solid waste in South Carolina as well as a comparison of imported waste by Southeastern states.

How much solid waste is imported to South Carolina?

The total amount of out-of-state solid waste disposed of in South Carolina's landfills in fiscal year (FY) 2008 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008) was 1,524,305 tons. Based on data from previous years, the amount of solid waste imported is about 18 percent of the total amount of solid waste disposed of in the state.

CHART 1: Solid Waste Imported to South Carolina by Fiscal Year

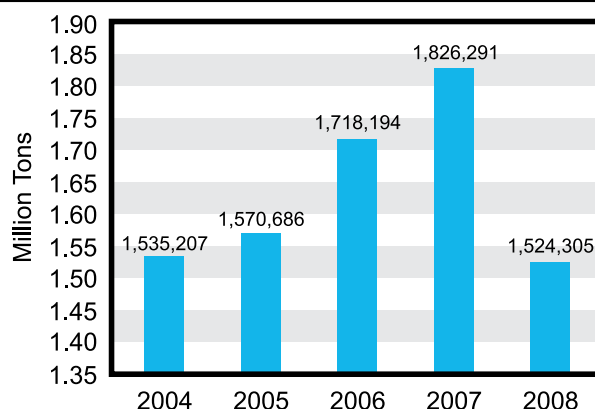


TABLE A: Solid Waste Imported to South Carolina in Tons for FY 2008*

ORIGIN	HICKORY HILL MSW LANDFILL Jasper County	LEE COUNTY LANDFILL, LLC	OAKRIDGE MSW LANDFILL Dorchester County	PALMETTO MSW LANDFILL Spartanburg County	RICHLAND LANDFILL, INC. Richland County	THREE RIVERS MSW LANDFILL Aiken County	UNION COUNTY REGIONAL MSW LANDFILL	TOTAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSED OF IN S.C. LANDFILLS
Connecticut	0	5,645	0	0	0	0	0	5,645
Delaware	0	261	0	0	0	0	0	261
District of Columbia	0	1,072	0	0	0	0	0	1,072
Georgia	16,518	171	852	0	2,812	21,557	8,906	50,816
Massachusetts	0	274,745	0	0	0	0	0	274,745
New Jersey	0	205,660	0	0	0	0	0	205,660
New York	0	519,802	0	0	0	0	0	519,802
North Carolina	0	4,879	25	274,028	66,652	0	46,359	391,942
Pennsylvania	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	23
Tennessee	0	0	7	180	15	0	0	201
Virginia	0	0	0	32	284	0	0	316
Miscellaneous**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73,822
TOTAL WASTE FROM OUT OF STATE	16,518	1,012,235	907	274,239	69,762	21,557	55,265	1,524,305

* Some totals may not add up due to rounding.

**This represents solid waste imported from Georgia and North Carolina and disposed of in construction and demolition debris and land-clearing debris landfills.

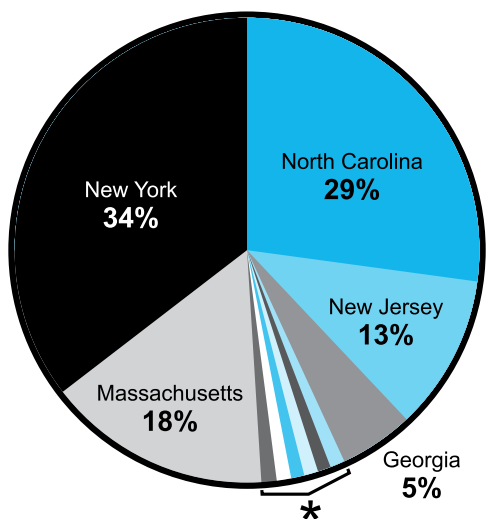
In FY 2008, 10 states and the District of Columbia sent solid waste to South Carolina. New York and North Carolina combined for more than 60 percent (about 900,000 tons) of the total amount. (See Table A and Chart 2.)

Since FY 2004, the total amount of solid waste imported to South Carolina increased each year until FY 2008, when there was a drop of 301,986 tons (or 19.8 percent) from the previous FY. (See Chart 1 on the front.) Several landfill managers reported that a decrease is directly related to the slowing of the economy. In addition, one landfill reported a significant diversion of solid waste back to North Carolina. Overall, four landfills reported the largest decreases of imported solid waste – Lee, Oakridge, Palmetto and Union.

How does South Carolina compare to other Southeastern states?

Of the six Southeastern states that reported, two – Virginia and Georgia – accept more out-of-state solid waste than South Carolina. Alabama and Florida do not track or report this information. (See Chart 3).

CHART 2: Solid Waste Imported to South Carolina for FY 2008

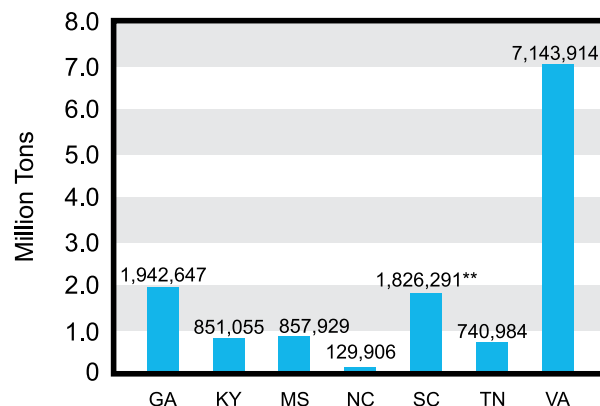


* Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia as well as the District of Columbia each account for less than 1 percent of the solid waste imported to South Carolina.

How much solid waste is exported from South Carolina?

South Carolina also exports solid waste. Six counties – Anderson, Chester, Lancaster, Oconee, Pickens and York – sent 162,194 tons of solid waste to Georgia and North Carolina landfills in FY 2008. (See Chart 4.)

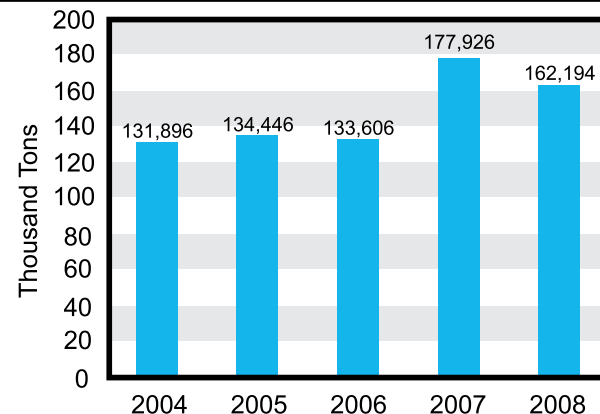
CHART 3: Solid Waste Imported to Southeastern States* for 2007



* Alabama did not provide information and Florida does not collect information.

** South Carolina imported 1,524,305 tons of solid waste in FY 2008.

CHART 4: Solid Waste Exported from South Carolina by Year



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

SOURCES: Information for Chart 3 was gathered by telephone interviews and reports from the following environmental agencies: Alabama Department of Environmental Management; Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Georgia Department of Community Affairs; Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. South Carolina's information is taken from the South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Reports available at www.scdhec.gov/recycle. For more information, call the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management at 1-800-768-7348.